

Board of Directors

February 23, 2010

Kevin Martone, M.S.W.
President
New Jersey

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Lorrie Rickman Jones, Ph.D.
Vice President
Illinois

RE: Notice of Ex Parte Communication
WC Docket No. 07-271

Terri White, M.S.W.
Treasurer
Oklahoma

Dear Ms. Marlene H. Dortch:

Brian Hepburn, M.D.
Secretary
Maryland

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) is writing in support of the Federal Communications Commission to permanently award the three 1-800-SUICIDE numbers to the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). NASMHPD is a national organization that represents the \$36.7 billion public mental health service delivery system that serves 6.4 million people annually in all 50 states, 4 territories and the District of Columbia. NASMHPD members play a vital role in the delivery, financing, and evaluation of mental health services within a rapidly evolving healthcare environment. The principal programs operated, funded, and/or regulated by NASMHPD members serve people who have serious mental illnesses (SMI), developmental disabilities, and/or substance use disorders.

Virginia Trotter Betts, M.S.N., J.D.,
R.N., F.A.A.N.
At-Large Member
Tennessee

Steve Baron
North-Eastern Regional
Representative
District of Columbia

Laura Nelson, M.D.
Western Regional
Representative
Arizona

NASMHPD subcontracts with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) to bring awareness about suicide prevention measures (i.e., the cost-effective benefits of crisis call centers) to its members. NSPL provides detailed state monitoring reports and data that illustrate to our members the importance of supporting crisis centers. In addition, NSPL provides extensive resources to NASMHPD members experiencing a suicide crisis in their state.

Gina Eckart, M.S.
Mid-Western Regional
Representative
Indiana

Katharine Lyon, Ph.D.
Southern Regional
Representative
Florida

Under the auspice of NSPL, crisis centers are a reliable safety net for America's most vulnerable citizens including people with mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders. Without a dependable, nationwide crisis calling system, citizens would not get the continuity of care that is vitally important during a crisis.

Robert W. Glover, Ph.D.
Executive Director
NASMHPD

We strongly encourage you to permanently assign the 1-800-SUICIDE numbers under the governance of SAMHSA.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Glover, Ph. D

